

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 PRS-01 ISO-00 SS-15 CCO-00 SSO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:JCHAMBERLAIN:JC

APPROVED BY PA/M:RHECKLINGER

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P 242052Z FEB 76 ZFF4

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UNCLAS STATE 044383 TOSEC 040261

E.O. 11652: N/A

AGS: SOPN, US, BR, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR EDITORIAL
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24 HEADED "KISSINGER'S ACCORD WITH BRAZIL."

2. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER HAS CONFIRMED WHAT
JUST ABOUT EVERYONE IN LATIN AMERICA SUSPECTED--NAMELY,
THAT THE UNITED STATES REGARDS BRAZIL AS ITS TOP ALLY
IN THE HEMISPHERE. MOREOVER, IN SIGNING AN ACCORD RECOG-
NIZING BRAZIL AS A MAJOR POWER, THE U.S. HAS GIVEN A
BIG BOOST TO THAT COUNTRY'S DREAMS OF CONTINENTAL HEGEMONY.

3. MAKING BRAZIL THE KEYSTONE OF U.S. LATIN-AMERICAN
POLICY MAY SEEM LIKE A LOGICAL STEP. AFTER ALL, BRAZIL IS
THE WORLD'S FIFTH LARGEST NATION AND A COUNTRY WITH
TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC POTENTIAL. BUT WASHINGTON IS LIKELY TO
FACE A RANGE OF NEW PROBLEMS WITH OTHER LATIN-AMERICAN

NATIONS AS A RESULT.

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4. MANY OF BRAZIL'S NEIGHBORS ARE SUSPICIOUS OF ITS

ECONOMIC AND TERRITORIAL DESIGNS. THEY ALSO HAVE LONG WONDERED IF THE U.S. AND BRAZIL SEEK TO DOMINATE THEM. THE

ACCORD SIGNED BY DR. KISSINGER AND HIS BRAZILIAN COUNTER-PART, FOREIGN MINISTER ANTONIO FRANCISCO AZEREDO DA SILVEIRA, IS BOUND TO HEIGHTEN THOSE SUSPICIONS.

5. THE ACCORD, TOGETHER WITH DR. KISSINGER'S WARM WORDS OF SUPPORT FOR BRAZIL, RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT WASHINGTON'S ATTITUDE TOWARD GOVERNMENTS THAT EMPLOY REPRESSION AS A TOOL TO CURB AND ELIMINATE OPPOSITION AND THE FREE FLOW OF IDEAS. EVER SINCE THE BRAZILIAN MILITARY SEIZED POWER IN 1964, SUCCESSIVE MILITARY LEADERS HAVE MAINTAINED A TIGHT REIN ON POLITICS AND USED A VARIETY OF MEASURES, INCLUDING TORTURE, TO MAINTAIN STABILITY.

6. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE NEW ACCORD WILL IN ANY WAY SOFTEN THE REPRESSION. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE APPEARANCES IN BRAZIL, DR. KISSINGER NEATLY SIDESTEPED THE ISSUE AND SPOKE ONLY IN GENERALITIES ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS APPROACH WILL CERTAINLY NOT APPEAL TO THE MILLIONS OF BRAZILIANS WHO LONG FOR SOMETHING OTHER THAN HEAVY-HANDED MILITARY RULE.

7. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, IT ALSO SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE BRASILIA-WASHINGTON ACCORD WILL CHANGE BRAZIL'S DESIRE TO DEVELOP A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY--AN ISSUE THAT WORRIES WASHINGTON FOR IT RAISES THE SPECTER OF AN EVENTUAL NUCLEAR RACE IN LATIN AMERICA. NOR IS THE NEW ACCORD LIKELY TO CHANGE BRAZIL'S DESIRE TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THE "THIRD WORLD" ON EVERYTHING FROM SUPPORT FOR COMMUNIST-BACKED FORCES IN ANGOLA TO SUPPORT FOR ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTIONS IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

8. ALL THIS BOILS DOWN TO A FEELING THAT THE BEST HOPE FOR THE ACCORD LIES IN THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT PROVIDES AN AVENUE FOR SOLVING PRESENT AND FUTURE BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. OTHERWISE, THE U.S. WILL HAVE VERY LITTLE IN RETURN FOR ITS BIG GESTURE.

(END TEXT) INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE044383
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JCHAMBERLAIN:JC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760069-0489
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760217/aaaaaowj.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, US, BR, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY AIRCRAFT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006